THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government, in November, 1997, had decided to dismantle APM in the Petroleum Sector in phases starting from 1998-99. During the transition period, five products *viz.* MS, HSD, SKO, LPG and ATF, will be controlled products. These five products from all private sector and joint venture refineries will be marketed during the transition period by the National Oil Companies only to the extent the same are required for domestic consumption. However, when the transition period is over in 2002-03, all private sector/joint venture refineries with a minimum investment of Rs. 2,000 crores can market all their products including these five products.

(c) Tentatively, the refinery of M/s. Reliance Petroleum Limited would be operational from June, 1999.

(d) The Government have permitted the Govt. oil marketing companies to market lubricants through the dealers selected by them. The retail outlet/SKO/LDO/LPG dealers/distributors of these companies are selected by the Dealer Selection Boards appointed by the Government. The private companies are free to market decontrolled products and other decanalised products through their own dealer network and at prices determined by them.

Per Capita production of Crude Oil by ONGC

3316. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pelased to state:

(a) what is the total number of employees of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) in Assam; and

(b) how does per capita production of crude oil in Assam compare with Oil and Natural Gas Commission's all-India per capita production of crude oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) 10286 as on 1.4.1998.

(b) During 1997-98 ONGC Ltd.'s per capita (employee) crude oil production in Assam and in the entire country was approximately 200 MT and 670 MT respectively.

HPCL Refinery Fire

3317. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what would be the impact of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation refinery fire on the economics of the on-going HPCL pipeline in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the new economics of operation will have to be worked out; and

(c) how much capacity of the new pipeline will be under-utilised in the initial stages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) There will no impact on the economics of the ongoing HPCL pipeline Visakh-Vijayawada Project Pipeline or on its scheduled mechanical completion.

(c) Pipelines are normally designed to cater for the throughout for long range period keeping in view growth in demand in subsequent years. Therefore, in the intial years capacity utilization would be lower. Visakh-Vijayawada Phase-I Capacity of 4.107 MMTPA is designed for the throughout upto the year 2006-2007.